

STORY OF THE POPE'S STONE.

Dr. Toner Relates the Details of Its Well-Known Destruction.

The gentlemen who represented the Monument Society at the summit of the shaft yesterday found a fruitful theme of conversation in their reminiscences. Dr. Toner was familiar with the details of the breaking of the Pope's stone, for instance. In the course of a conversation with a reporter he said:

"Everyone has heard how the stone was demolished, but I can give you some details regarding the matter that will be interesting. The Monument Society applied, you know, through the United States Consul, to all foreign countries to contribute blocks of stone with legends and sentiments inscribed upon them, in order that they might be inserted inside of the monument. The Pope sent a block of African marble which had been taken from the Temple of Concord, and, as far as I can ascertain, was inscribed with the simple words, 'Rome to America.' The Know-Nothing movement was rife at that period of our political history, and but little was needed to foment the hatred against all things foreign.

A fanatical minister in Baltimore named John P. Weishample wrote an address to the Protestants of the United States against placing the Pope's block in the monument. Such a religious furor was created that the stone was taken by force in the night from the lapidarium and destroyed."

"What were the particular circumstances?"

"The report published in the National Intelligencer of the event says that one Sunday night several men suddenly surrounded the watch box of the night watchman who was placed on duty at the monument, and placed a rope around it, besides piling a number of heavy stones against the door. They took the stone from the lapidarium, placed it on a wheelbarrow and went off with it in the direction of the river. It is supposed that the stone was either demolished or precipitated into the water by the iconoclasts. The watchman who was armed, made no effort to apprehend the vandals, and was, after having been investigated, discharged from his position.

"I am not a vandal, but I have a piece of the original corner stone," continued Dr. Toner, handing a small package to the reporter. The bandage was wrapped around the small chunk of marble as carefully as the swadding clothes around the ghastly form of an Egyptian mummy.

"This chip was knocked off the corner-stone by Mr. P. H. McLaughlin in my presence, when the foundation of the monument was strengthened in 1850."